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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 5 June 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, a telegram of 5 June 1992 from the Vice-President of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, Dr. Branko Kostić, addressed to the Secretary-General.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly under agenda item 68.

(Signed) Dragomir Djokić
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Telegram dated 5 June 1992 from the Vice-President of the Presidency of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

The Presidency of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has reviewed Security Council resolutions 752 (1992) and 757 (1992) as well as your report to the Security Council of 30 May this year (S/24049). In connection with the requests contained in the above documents, the Presidency has the honour to inform you that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is honouring all its international obligations as stipulated by international law and the United Nations Charter and is firmly resolved to fulfil all the requirements emanating from resolutions 752 (1992) and 757 (1992).

1. Respect for the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia lays no territorial claims on Bosnia and Herzegovina or any other country. This position was formally proclaimed by the Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at its session of 27 April 1992 when the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was promulgated. This is to be considered as the definitive position of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by which it will consistently abide.

2. Cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is doing its utmost so that the cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina be put in place. To that end, the Presidency of Yugoslavia has, among other things, publicly urged the Serbian leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- To initiate an immediate cease-fire and consistently abide by it and stop the shelling of Sarajevo and other towns from the territories under its control;

- To invite immediately the representatives of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) to take the Sarajevo Airport under their control, in conformity with the commitment the Serbian leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina has undertaken and publicly declared;

- To invite UNPROFOR to send observers to all its units to monitor directly the cease-fire, since the Serbian leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina itself proposed an immediate cease-fire;

- To ensure and provide guarantees on the territory under its control for the unhindered passage of all humanitarian relief.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its institutions will do everything for its part so that these demands are fully supported and appreciated by the Serbian leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the

authorities of the FR of Yugoslavia expect the international community to influence the Muslim and the Croatian parties as well, to bring about an immediate cessation of hostilities on their part.

3. Withdrawal and demobilization of military effectives in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia most emphatically strives for the implementation of resolution 752 (1992) and the withdrawal of all foreign military effectives from Bosnia and Herzegovina. We have for our part taken the necessary measures and completed the withdrawal of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), i.e., the citizens of the FR of Yugoslavia within its ranks.

The authorities of the FR of Yugoslavia are doing their utmost to achieve an agreement with the Muslim and Serbian parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the withdrawal of the remaining 800 cadets from the blocked garrisons in Sarajevo, so that they may return to the territory of the FR of Yugoslavia as soon as possible.

However, certain elements of the former JNA have remained in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as citizens of that republic. They have joined with some of the weaponry the armed formations of the Serbian people of Bosnia and Herzegovina as has been the case with certain other elements of the JNA that had previously joined the Muslim and Croatian armed formations.

The Presidency of Yugoslavia is fully aware of the need for all military effectives to be demobilized, including those mentioned above, in accordance with the Security Council demand. However, since the authorities of the FR of Yugoslavia are objectively not in a position to do so as they do not have control over those forces, we have proposed that this operation be carried out jointly by the Russian Federation and the United States of America under the auspices of the United Nations. Yugoslavia is prepared to extend its full cooperation in the implementation of this undertaking.

4. Disbanding and disarming of all paramilitary units

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia supports the demand of the Security Council that all paramilitary units in Bosnia and Herzegovina including those that might come from the outside, be immediately disbanded and disarmed. In that vein, in the territory of the FR of Yugoslavia, any formation and arming of such units is strictly prohibited by law and effective steps have been taken to prevent the formation of any such groups or armed individuals and their infiltration into the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We have proposed that international control be established by deploying United Nations observers along the border between the FR of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

5. Effective and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is endeavouring in every possible way to mitigate the suffering of citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina and towards

that end, it has already itself distributed large quantities of humanitarian aid in the form of foodstuffs, medicaments, etc., and it will continue to do so within its possibilities. The authorities of the FR of Yugoslavia are also persistently urging and exerting pressure on all the parties to the conflict to enable an effective international humanitarian operation to provide relief to the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sarajevo, in particular. In that regard, we have pressed for the opening of all communications and the Sarajevo Airport in particular so that the humanitarian relief may be delivered and that the humanitarian organizations may perform their mission. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia guarantees absolute safety of communications on its territory for the transportation of humanitarian aid and the activities of humanitarian organizations.

6. Preventing forced displacement of population

There are no instances of forced displacement of population on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which, unfortunately is not the case in the areas engulfed in the conflicts. We publicly advocate the prevention of such practices and demand that all the factors involved most energetically oppose anyone, regardless of who that might be, committing such an evil crime. On the territory of the FR of Yugoslavia full respect for all human rights and freedoms, including the rights of national minorities has been ensured and we are advocating that respect for human rights in the embattled territories be equally ensured.

7. Political negotiations for a durable solution to the crisis

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia believes that a lasting solution to the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina can be found through an effective political agreement among the three constituent peoples and emphasizes that it shall respect any such agreement. We support the Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina under the auspices of the European Community. In that regard, it is necessary to invest special efforts to influence the Muslim side to return to the negotiating table as the best way to achieve a solution.

8. Cooperation with UNPROFOR

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia highly appreciates the ongoing constructive engagement of UNPROFOR both in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The unquestionable objective, impartial and dedicated engagement of UNPROFOR provides the possibility for the entire international community to learn about the real state of affairs on the ground so that the United Nations, and primarily the Security Council, may address it in the most adequate way. Their role in objectively evaluating the situation was reaffirmed in the report of the Secretary-General of 30 May 1992.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia notes again that an end to the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina is its vital interest. It fully appreciates the intentions of the Security Council in adopting resolutions

752 (1992) and 757 (1992) and declares that, for its part, it shall do the utmost to implement them and to defuse the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

However, as your own report to the Security Council of 30 May 1992 indicates, all the relevant circumstances were not taken into account in the course of the adoption of those resolutions. Consequently, there is a real danger that the principal objective of the resolutions - to contain the conflict and stop the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina - may not be attained.

It is necessary to obtain all objective and full information in order to have a realistic assessment of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The recently adopted resolution 757 (1992) and the mandatory measures are based upon the misconception that the FR of Yugoslavia is the aggressor and the responsible party for the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina whereupon the role of all the parties involved has not been objectively assessed. There are three warring national armies in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the influence of various quarters. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is not involved in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a warring party and does not have an influence on the course of events there ascribed to it by those resolutions. Your report of 30 May 1992 provides a realistic evaluation of the role of Yugoslaiva, but also of other parties. Regrettably, these facts have not been taken into account.

Any one-sided approach to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina can lead to a tragedy with unforeseeable consequences for the FR of Yugoslavia, the region and relations at large, rather than to the desired goal - the end of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For all these reasons, we are asking the Security Council to convene a meeting which would, in the light of the real situation on the ground including the information contained in your report of 30 May 1992, and especially of the fact that the FR of Yugoslavia has positively responded to all the demands of the relevant Security Council resolutions, adopt an appropriate resolution lifting the mandatory measures imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia shall do everything in its power to consistently fulfil the obligations it has assumed.

Allow me to assure you that Yugoslavia, as a founding member of the United Nations committed to the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter, shall do its utmost so that peace and tranquillity as well as economic and social prosperity may return to these lands as soon as possible.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDENCY
OF YUGOSLAVIA

DR. BRANKO KOSTIĆ